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JAMES F KIRK 16365 MARUFFA CIRCLE HUNTINGTON BEACH, CA 92649-2134			EXAMINER DURNFORD GESZVAIN, DILLON	
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/714,129	Applicant(s) NING, ALEX	
	Examiner Dillon Durnford-Geszvain	Art Unit 2622	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 13 November 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-16 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-16 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 13 November 2003 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

1. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

2. Claims **13** and **14** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and/or use the invention.

Claim **13** seems to correspond to Figs. 9 and 10. As such, the Examiner does not believe that the disclosure is sufficient for one of ordinary skill in the art to make the invention as claimed. Particularly, in Figs. 9 and 10 the direction of the current *I* is reversed and the polarity of the outer coil reverses when this is done, as is to be expected. However, the polarity of the inner coil does not change and it is unclear to the Examiner why the polarity of this coil would not also change when the direction that the current travels through the coil changes. Further, there is no discussion in the specification that enlightens the Examiner as to how this is done. Therefore one of ordinary skill in the art would have to perform undue experimentation in order to make the an apparatus work as claimed.

If the Applicant believes that the disclosure is enabling the Examiner requests that the specific parts of the specification and/or drawings that make clear how the invention functions be pointed out in any response to this Office Action.

Examination on the merits of this claim is precluded.

Claim **14** recites a similar limitation.

Examination on the merits of this claim is precluded.

3. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

4. Claims **3-7** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

5. Claim **3** recites the limitation "the forward rear surface portion of the inner guide surface" in line 10. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

The Examiner believes that the Applicant may have intended this to say --rear surface portion-- and will interpret the claim this way for the sake of a more complete examination on the merits.

Claim **3** further recites the limitation "the lens holder first cylinder" in lines 19-20. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

The Examiner will interpret "the lens holder first cylinder" to be --the first cylinder-

-.

Claim 3 further recites the limitation "the lens holder second cylinder" in line 21. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

The Examiner will interpret "the lens holder second cylinder" to be --the second cylinder--.

Claim 6 recites the limitation "the spring being compressed" in lines 5-6. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

The Examiner believes that the Applicant may have intended to make claim 6 depend from claim 5 and will interpret the claim as though it depended from claim 5.

Claim 6 further recited the limitation "the flexible outer barrel outer cylinder" in lines 1-2. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

The Examiner does not know what was intended by this limitation in the claim.

Claims 4-7 are rejected as indefinite because they depend from a claim that is indefinite.

Claim Objections

6. Claims 2 and 7 are objected to because of the following informalities:

Claim 2 recites "the eternal guide" in line 4. This should be --the external guide--.

Claim 7 recites "the lens assembly outer barrel is magnetized have:". The Examiner does not know how this should read. This will not effect the examination of the claim on the merits as it is in the preamble and will not be given weight.

Appropriate correction is required.

Drawings

7. The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Therefore, the "a lens barrel outer surface having a permanent magnet coupled to its surface, non-fero-magnetic ring axially positioned on a circular lens holder outer surface and free to rotate, the ring having at least two permanent magnets to be coupled to the ring on opposing radials to permit the polarity of the magnetic pole applied to permit the magnet in the lens barrel to be reversed by rotation of the ring" must be shown or the feature(s) canceled from the claim(s). No new matter should be entered.

Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as "amended." If a drawing figure is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate

changes made to the brief description of the several views of the drawings for consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the remaining figures. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

8. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

9. Claims **1-4** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by US 2002/0135901 (Nomura et al.).

As to claim **1**, Nomura et al. teaches an imager module with a retractable lens comprising:

a lens holder (comprising 18, 25 and 30; see Fig. 1) having

an image end and

an object end and

an inner guide surface (the inner surface of 25 and 30, see Fig. 1), parallel

to an optical axis,

an imager (not shown but present in camera body 11) having

an image plane, the imager being coupled to the lens holder adjacent the lens holder image end and aligned to position the image plane to be normal to the optical axis (note that this encompasses the normal operational state of a camera),

a lens assembly 31 (see Fig. 2) having

an object end, and

an image end,

an external guide surface 31 and 33,

the lens assembly being coupled to the lens holder by the lens holder inner guide surface being coupled to the lens assembly external guide surface, the lens holder being formed to allow the lens assembly external guide surface to move on the lens holder inner guide surface from a retracted position to an extended position (see Figs. 2, 3 and 4 and [0077]),

an objective lens L1 with one or more lens elements concentrically aligned along and normal to the optical axis; and,

a means 15 for extending the lens assembly and for holding the lens assembly in the extended position for an imaging interval during which the objective lens captures an object image, forms the object image on the image plane allowing the imager to capture and store the image in response to a command signal (see [0094] for example).

As to claim 2, see the rejection of claim 1 and note that Nomura et al. further

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teaches the imaging module of claim 1 wherein the lens assembly further comprises:

a lens barrel 31, having a cylindrical external surface shape (see Fig. 1), the lens barrel holding at least the objective lens first lens element L1 centered on the optical axis to form the objective lens, the external guide surface being formed on a lens barrel external surface for engagement with the lens holder inner guide surface (see Fig. 1).

As to claim 3, see the rejection of claim 1 and note that Nomura et al. further teaches the imaging module of claim 1 wherein

the lens holder inner guide surface is formed having a forward surface portion (the inner surface of 30) and a rear surface portion (the inner surface of 25), an object end aperture at the object end providing entrance to a first cylinder (see Fig. 4), the inner wall of the first cylinder forming the forward surface portion of the inner guide surface, the lens holder optical axis passing through the center of the first cylinder, the first cylinder having a first diameter (see Fig. 4), the first cylinder extending rearward to a first circular aperture (see Fig. 4) bordered by a first shoulder surface (the rear surface of 30), the first shoulder surface extending outward to a second cylinder (the inner surface of 25) having a diameter larger than the diameter of the first cylinder (see Fig. 4), the inner wall of the cylinder forming the rear surface portion of the inner guide surface (see Fig. 4 and note that the guide ring 33 rides along the inner surface of 25), the second cylinder extending to a second circular aperture bordered by a second shoulder surface (the back of 25, see Fig. 4), the second shoulder extending outward to a third cylinder having a diameter larger than the diameter of the second cylinder, the

third cylinder extending rearward to a third circular aperture at the image end of the lens holder (see Fig. 4), the first, second and third cylinders being coaxial on the optical axis (see Fig. 4),

the lens assembly has a lens barrel (31 and 33), the lens barrel has an object end and an image end and a cylindrical surface (see Fig. 4), the cylindrical surface has a forward portion 31 at the object end and a rear portion 33 at the image end (see Fig. 4), the forward and rear portions form the external guide surface, the forward portion has a diameter formed to fit into the first cylinder 30 (see Fig. 4), the rear portion forms a cylindrical flange (see Fig. 9) and has a diameter formed to fit into the second cylinder and to telescopically slide within the second cylinder (see Fig. 4), the lens barrel forward portion is free to telescope out of the lens holder object end and to extend to a travel stop as the cylindrical flange contacting the lens holder first shoulder surface (see Fig. 4).

As to claim 4, see the rejection of claim 3 and note that Nomura et al. further teaches the imaging module of claim 3 wherein the lens barrel forward portion further comprises an outer barrel 31 having an outer cylindrical surface that forms the lens assembly external guide surface (see the rejections of claims 1 and 3), and an inner lens barrel within the outer barrel 40 (see Fig. 10), the inner barrel is coupled to support and locate the one or more lens elements forming the objective lens (see Fig. 4), the outer barrel and the inner barrel are coupled together at a flexure formed between the outer barrel and the inner barrel, the flexure being characterized to hold a portion of the

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outer barrel outer surface in contact with the lens holder inner guide surface (see Figs. 1 and 4).

10. Claims **1-6**, **10** and **15** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by US 2,358,321 (Fassin).

As to claim **1**, Fassin teaches an imager module with a retractable lens comprising:

- a lens holder (12 (see Fig. 4) having

- an image end and

- an object end and

- an inner guide surface (see Fig. 4), parallel to an optical axis,

- an imager (film in the present case) having

- an image plane, the imager being coupled to the lens holder adjacent the lens holder image end and aligned to position the image plane to be normal to the optical axis (see Fig. 4),

- a lens assembly 14 (see Fig. 4) having

- an object end, and

- an image end,

- an external guide surface (see Fig. 4),

the lens assembly being coupled to the lens holder by the lens holder inner guide surface being coupled to the lens assembly external guide surface, the lens holder being formed to allow the lens assembly external guide surface to move on the lens

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holder inner guide surface from a retracted position to an extended position (see Fig. 4 and Column 1 lines 39-41),

an objective lens 17 with one or more lens elements concentrically aligned along and normal to the optical axis (Column 1 lines 45-48); and,

a means 30 for extending the lens assembly and for holding the lens assembly in the extended position for an imaging interval during which the objective lens captures an object image, forms the object image on the image plane allowing the imager to capture and store the image in response to a command signal (see Fig. 4 and Column 2 lines 31-34).

As to claim 2, see the rejection of claim 1 and note that Fassin further teaches the imaging module of claim 1 wherein the lens assembly further comprises:

a lens barrel 14, having a cylindrical external surface shape (see Fig. 4), the lens barrel holding at least the objective lens first lens element 17 centered on the optical axis to form the objective lens, the external guide surface being formed on a lens barrel external surface for engagement with the lens holder inner guide surface (see Fig. 4).

As to claim 3, see the rejection of claim 1 and note that Fassin further teaches the imaging module of claim 1 wherein

the lens holder inner guide surface is formed having a forward surface portion (the inner diameter of flange 13) and a rear surface portion (the outer diameter of flange 13 formed by tubular frame member 12, extending toward the back of the camera), an

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object end aperture at the object end providing entrance to a first cylinder (the inner diameter of flange 13), the inner wall of the first cylinder forming the forward surface portion of the inner guide surface, the lens holder optical axis passing through the center of the first cylinder, the first cylinder having a first diameter (see Fig. 4), the first cylinder extending rearward to a first circular aperture (see Fig. 4) bordered by a first shoulder surface (the rear surface of flange 13), the first shoulder surface extending outward to a second cylinder (the outer diameter of flange 13 formed by tubular frame member 12, see Fig. 4) having a diameter larger than the diameter of the first cylinder (see Fig. 4), the inner wall of the cylinder forming the rear surface portion of the inner guide surface (see Fig. 4), the second cylinder extending to a second circular aperture bordered by a second shoulder surface (this is where ribs 23 abut tubular frame member 12), the second shoulder extending outward to a third cylinder (the outer wall of tubular frame member 12) having a diameter larger than the diameter of the second cylinder, the third cylinder extending rearward to a third circular aperture at the image end of the lens holder (this is where the film is held, see Fig. 4), the first, second and third cylinders being coaxial on the optical axis (see Fig. 4),

the lens assembly has a lens barrel (14), the lens barrel has an object end and an image end and a cylindrical surface (see Fig. 4), the cylindrical surface has a forward portion 14 at the object end and a rear portion (flange 15) at the image end (see Fig. 4), the forward and rear portions form the external guide surface, the forward portion has a diameter formed to fit into the first cylinder (the inner diameter of flange 13, see Fig. 4), the rear portion forms a cylindrical flange (15, see Fig. 4) and has a diameter formed to

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fit into the second cylinder and to telescopically slide within the second cylinder (see Fig. 4), the lens barrel forward portion is free to telescope out of the lens holder object end and to extend to a travel stop as the cylindrical flange contacting the lens holder first shoulder surface (see Fig. 4).

As to claim 4, see the rejection of claim 3 and note that Fassin further teaches the imaging module of claim 3 wherein the lens barrel forward portion further comprises an outer barrel 14 having an outer cylindrical surface that forms the lens assembly external guide surface (see the rejections of claim 3), and an inner lens barrel within the outer barrel (not numbered but located at the object end of 14, see Fig. 4), the inner barrel is coupled to support and locate the one or more lens elements forming the objective lens 17 (see Fig. 4), the outer barrel and the inner barrel are coupled together at a flexure formed between the outer barrel and the inner barrel, the flexure being characterized to hold a portion of the outer barrel outer surface in contact with the lens holder inner guide surface (see Figs. 2 and 4).

As to claim 5, see the rejection of claim 4 and note that Fassin further teaches the imaging module of claim 4 wherein the imaging module further comprises: a spring 30 having an object end coupled to the lens barrel image end and an image end coupled to the lens holder (Column 2 lines 29-34), the spring is contained in the lens holder second cylinder (see any of Figs. 2-5), the spring expands to apply a force to the image end of the lens assembly flange driving the lens assembly to an extended state

(see Figs. 4 and 5).

As to claim 6, see the rejection of claim 5 and note that Fassin further teaches the imaging module of claim 5 wherein the outer cylindrical surface is further characterized to have a protrusion 33 adjacent the outer barrel, and the lens holder inner surface is further characterized to have a recess formed to receive the protrusion (the space between 12 and 14 when the lens is retracted) as the lens assembly is forced into a retracted state, the lens holder first and second cylinders receiving the lens assembly, the spring being compressed in the lens holder second cylinder as the lens assembly is moved into a retracted position (see Fig. 2 and Column 2 lines 40-48).

As to claim 10, see the rejection of claim 1 and note that Fassin further teaches the imaging module of claim 1 wherein the means for advancing the lens assembly to the extended position in response to an extend signal (provided by plunger 35) is provided by a compressed spring 30 having an object end pressing to the lens barrel image end and an image end coupled to the lens holder (see Fig. 2, for example), the spring is contained in the lens holder second cylinder (see Fig. 2), the spring expanding to apply a force to the image end of the lens barrel flange to drive the lens assembly to an extended state (see Fig. 3), and wherein the means for retracting the lens assembly to a retracted position is a manually applied force to the lens barrel to drive the lens barrel into the lens holder first and second cylinders (not shown, but necessary when it is considered that no other means for retracting the lens are disclosed).

Claim **15** is similar to claim **10** and is therefore rejected on the same grounds.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

11. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims **7-9, 11, 12** and **16** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over US 2,358,321 (Fassin) in view of US 5,978,161 (Lemke).

As to claim **7**, see the rejection of claim **4** in view of Fassin and note that what Fassin does not teach is that the mechanism for extending the lens barrel is a permanent magnet and a coil for forming an electromagnetic field.

However, Lemke teaches a camera having an object end magnetic pole having a first magnetic polarity and an image end magnetic pole having a second magnetic polarity (see Fig. 9), and wherein: a lens holder 10 has an external surface (see Fig. 9), the lens holder having a coil 13' coupled to the lens holder external surface for forming an electromagnetic field in at least the lens holder in response to an electrical command signal (from SV), the polarity of the electromagnetic field and the polarity of the image end magnet pole and the object end magnetic pole being ordered to produce a force to move the lens assembly to a fully extended position (Column 6 lines 37-46).

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time

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the invention was made to have replaced the spring of Fassin with the magnetic apparatus of Lemke as this would allow for a controllable variable focal length as is used in modern cameras with a great degree of control and a minimum of mechanical parts (Column 1 line 66 to Column 2 line 9).

As to claim 8, see the rejection of claim 1 and note that what Fassin does not teach is that the mechanism for extending the lens barrel is a permanent magnet and a coil for forming an electromagnetic field.

However, Lemke teaches a camera having an object end magnetic pole having a first magnetic polarity and an image end magnetic pole having a second magnetic polarity (see Fig. 9), and wherein: a lens holder 10 has an external surface (see Fig. 9), the lens holder having a coil 13' coupled to the lens holder external surface for forming an electromagnetic field in at least the lens holder in response to an electrical command signal (from SV), the polarity of the electromagnetic field and the polarity of the image end magnet pole and the object end magnetic pole being ordered to produce a force to move the lens assembly to a fully extended position (Column 6 lines 37-46).

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have replaced the spring of Fassin with the magnetic apparatus of Lemke as this would allow for a controllable variable focal length as is used in modern cameras with a great degree of control and a minimum of mechanical parts (Column 1 line 66 to Column 2 line 9).

As to claim 9, see the rejection of claim 1 and note that what Fassin does not

teach is the mechanism for extending the barrel comprises: the lens barrel outer surface having a permanent magnet, and a ring having at least two permanent magnets to permit the polarity applied to the permanent magnet in the lens barrel to be reversed by rotation of the ring.

However, Lemke teaches a camera with a mechanism for moving a lens where the lens outer barrel surface has a permanent magnet 8 (see Fig. 5b) and a permanent magnet 12 for coupling to the magnet 8 and moving a lens barrel 7 axially. Although Lemke does not teach two permanent magnets with opposite facing poles formed as part of a ring on the outside of a circular lens holder, they would have considered this as an alternative embodiment as it would allow for the removal of guide pin 11 which would reduce the chances of mechanical failure rendering the device inoperable.

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have included a lens barrel outer surface having a permanent magnet, and a ring having at least two permanent magnets to permit the polarity applied to the permanent magnet in the lens barrel to be reversed by rotation of the ring as this would allow for a coupling for extending the lens of Fassin with a minimum of mechanical parts which would insure a long life for the camera made with the combination (Column 1 line 66 to Column 2 line 9).

As to claim 11, see the rejection of claim 1 and note that Fassin does not teach that the means for advancing the lens assembly is a permanent magnet combination. However, Lemke teaches a means for advancing a lens assembly 7, with a permanent

magnet combination (see Fig. 4, for example). Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have used a permanent magnet combination, such as is done in Lemke to advance the lens assembly of Fassin as this would provide a means for extending with less mechanical parts that may fail during prolonged use.

As to claim 12, see the rejection of claim 1 and note that claim 12 roughly corresponds to claim 7 but depends from claim 1 instead of claim 4 and is therefore more broad than claim 7. Therefore, claim 12 is rejected on the same grounds as claim 7 but depending from claim 1 instead of claim 4.

Claim 16 is similar to claim 11 and therefore is rejected on similar grounds.

Conclusion

12. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. US 2,126,312 (Crumrine). US 6,424,472 (Chen). US 2004/0234257 (McKevitt et al.). US 6,594,450 (Kao).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Dillon Durnford-Geszvain whose telephone number is (571) 272-2829. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday 8 am to 5 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Vivek Srivastava can be reached on (571) 272-7304. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Dillon Durnford-Geszvain

6/15/2007

/John M. Villecco/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2622
June 18, 2007